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U. S. Department of Agriculture



AN ARRANGEMENT OF GENTIAN BLUE AND BURGUNDY

# "WHEELER CROFT"

*Delphiniums and Violas* FOR

**AGNES A. WHEELER, Plant Breeder** 1941

6123 S.E. 18th Ave. • Tel. EAst 7837 • **PORTLAND, OREGON**



# WHEELER CROFT

**W**HEELER CROFT DELPHINIUMS are delphiniums with PERSONALITY. They are bred for artistic perfection of plant and flower; for large flowers, strong growth, new and brilliant colors. They are distinct from other strains of hybrid delphiniums and have taken gold medals and blue ribbons in many flower shows throughout this country. Like all highly developed individuals, they do not show regimentation of set types.

Into them have gone many years of patient work, of waiting, of hopes, of dreams. Years of rigid selection and cross pollination by hand. Years of study of the laws of inheritance, of biology and botany, of the exacting methods of science.

In the beginning, other strains were used for the foundation of this one, the WHEELER CROFT, but, for many years now, no other strain has been crossed into them. They have attained the distinction of individuality, of PERSONALITY. They have great vigor of growth, with many spikes of stiff wiry stalks that are not easily broken. Average height is around six feet, with flower spikes two feet to fifty-eight inches of bloom. Long graceful laterals greatly prolong the blooming season and make the nicest cut flowers for home decoration.

The spikes are of the pyramid style, with flowers from two and a half to three and one-half inches across, each set on the stalk in its own place, not crowded into bunches. The flowers open at one time or nearly so, and open flat with centers of jewel-like perfection, not scattered all over the flower. Set on long stems or pedicels at the base of the spike, these may be picked off for low bowls or corsages.

They come in dazzling and gorgeous colors; blues of the Summer Sky, Crater Lake Blue, Cornflower Blue, Venetian Nights, Painter's Dream, and Gentian. Sunrise, Desert Twilight, Royal Purple, and Burgundy. And the newer shades of PINK, Pastel Pink and Pink Delight.

## A NEW STRAIN OF WHITE DELPHINIUMS . . . THE SNOWFLAKE

Pure white flowers of good substance, two and three-quarters to three and a half inches across, of the Wheeler Croft style shown in the pictures. These are also of strong growth and are a magnificent sight whether grown in masses or in groups of three to five clumps.

It is the result of years of hand pollination and the most rigid selection. It is surpassed by none and equaled by none that I have seen. You may get about five blues to a hundred and fifty plants from WHEELER CROFT HAND POLLINATED WHITE SEED. Through the years, it has steadily improved and this year's crop surpasses them all.

**SNOWFLAKE.** A short spike, usually two to three feet, with laterals around fifteen inches. But the flowers are three and a half inches across, snow white, with a cream center, very double. They are of sturdy growth and medium height. Very beautiful white delphiniums. **\$2.50 per pkt.**

**SNOW WHITE.** Seedling of Snowflake by Snow Queen. Fine, pure white, large flowers, well placed, on strong wiry stems. Plenty of laterals and beautiful foliage. Flower spikes from 3½-4½ feet. Medium tall, not much over five feet. **\$3.00 per pkt.**



# T DELPHINIUMS

**WHITE STAR.** This grows tall, with very long laterals. It has a long, loose spike with three inch flowers of the double anemone type. Light cream center. Beautiful, graceful, numerous laterals. Pure glistening white on strong stalks. **\$2.50 per pkt.**

**WHITE SPIRE.** Three foot spike of double white flowers. Flowers just under three inches. Three foot laterals. The center of softest fawn color giving an unusual effect. Very lovely. **\$2.50 per pkt.**

**SNOW QUEEN.** Forty-three inch spike of most perfect snow white flowers, double with light cream centers. Flowers over 3 inches, with pedicels of 6 inches at the base of the spike. Very strong growth, about 6 feet in height. Perfectly formed spike. Flowers last well. Seed only. **\$2.50 per pkt.**

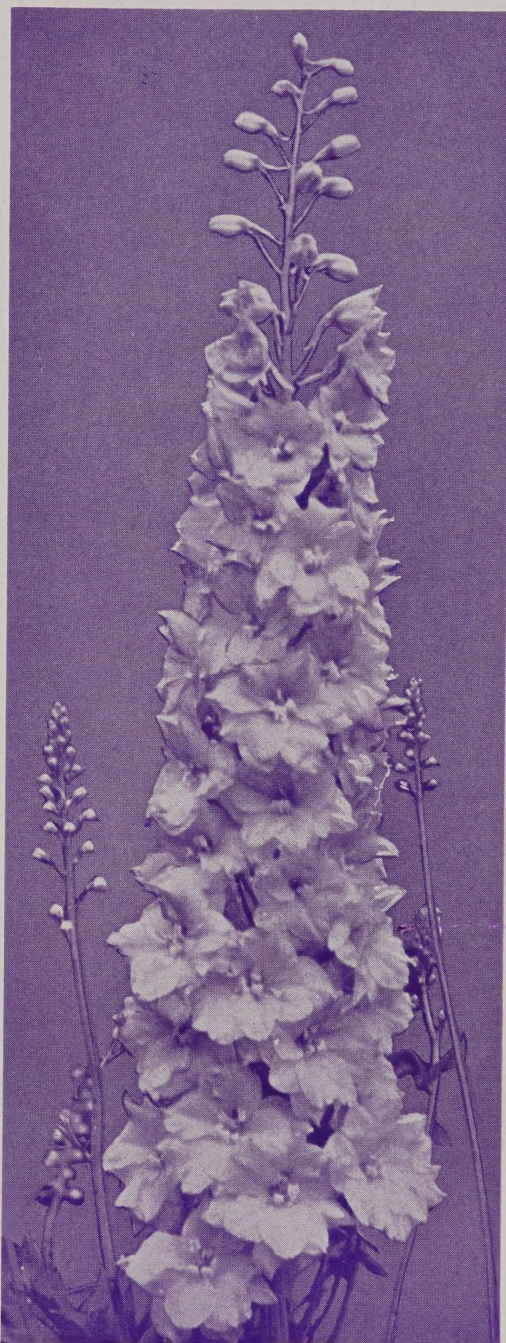
**BLACK-EYED BRIDE.** Pure white flowers with a beautiful black center. Graceful spikes with numerous laterals. Seven to nine stalks to a plant. Perfect placement of the large flowers. One of the most striking of delphiniums. Seed only. **\$2.50 per pkt.**

**Trial pkt of any one, \$1.00; 5 trial pkts., one of any five white varieties, \$5.00.**

**Snowflake Seedlings, \$5.00 per dozen.**

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**PINK DELIGHT. NEW SHADE.** Distinct, self color. Delicate pink with the faintest undertone of mauve. There is no trace of blue in the 3½ inch flowers, with their pale fawn centers. Spike between two and three feet, wide at the base, tapering. Vigorous sturdy plants, around five feet, that do not need staking. Long, numerous laterals. There is now a series of these, bringing to you a new color range in delphiniums. Seed only. **\$5.00 per pkt.**



**PINK DELIGHT**



# WHEELER CROFT HYB

## HAND POLL

### Collection of 12 Mixed

Seed in Straight Varieties or Mixtures.

Seed, \$2.50 per pkt. Trial packets, \$1.00.

Plants of named hybrids are not for sale, except a few varieties in very limited quantities. **SIX** plants, my selection, labeled varieties, \$10.00; **TWELVE** plants, \$20.00. No smaller orders will be accepted.



**BURGUNDY.** This is the dull rich wine color of burgundy. Dark and handsome, giving a solid color effect that takes the eye of any spectator. The stalks are stiff and tall; it is of excellent constitution, with flower spikes of four feet and over, flowers of three inches and over, with almost perfect placement. It has fine, numerous laterals and the seed carry a high percentage true to type and color.

**CORNFLOWER BLUE.** Cornflower blue double with petals that open very flat, with the edges turning back a little. Long spikes with long lovely laterals. Vivid blue, bright as cobalt, double, large flowered. Very striking. Lovely and charming.

**CRATER LAKE BLUE.** This is the most vivid and loveliest shade of blue—the blue of Crater Lake at sunset. A white center and a tone of velvet upon the petals. Flowers around 2½ inches. Greatly improved.

**DESERT TWILIGHT.** Double, with dark centers only. It gives a solid effect of the most delicate mauve. It fades and glows and charms. Flowers 3-3½ inches, very long spikes, perfect placement. One of the most beautiful Wheeler Croft delphiniums.

**GENTIAN.** The deep blue of Gentian Acaulis. Beautifully shaped spike, about 5 feet, whose double flowers of lovely blue are not touched by other shades. Seldom needs staking and does not ever grow very tall.



# HYBRID DELPHINIUM SEED PLANTS ONLY

## Seedling Plants, \$2.50

Centers both dark and light. It holds its flowers well and is the delight of the discriminating grower. Seed only. **\$5.00 per pkt.**

**PAINTER'S DREAM.** This one is most distinctive and is now greatly improved, with large flowers, long spikes, fine laterals, and much stronger growth. It has a tan center and is an almost indescribable blending of soft deep blue tones, with faint touches of mauve. The 1938 crop ran about forty per cent true.

**PASTEL PINK.** Cousin to Pink Delight but with much more orchid. Extra large flowers, rather short, strong spike, mostly light centered, double, and distinctive. It comes very true from seed. The growth is usually around five feet and seldom needs staking.

**ROYAL PURPLE.** This is one of my most beautiful delphiniums, running fifty to seventy per cent true in the 1938 crop. Spikes around four feet, wide at the bottom, and tapering to a spire. They come in both light and dark centers, with almost perfect placement, long pedicels, with large, flat, widely opened flowers. Very double. A startling color. A stalk may have as many as twenty laterals, with flowers almost as large as those on the main spike. Vigorous growth with four to seven spikes per plant. Flowers from 3-3½ inches. Clear, bright royal purple, one of the richest and most gorgeous colors in delphiniums.

**RUBY.** This is a most unusual color in flowers and so far as I know occurs in hybrid delphiniums only. It is the color of the Siberian Ruby or deeper shade of tourmalin, the gem stone. A lighter shade of royal purple, with more pink in it. Flowers very large, about 3½ inches. A clear sparkling color. Around 6 feet in height. **Pkt. \$3.00.**





**SUMMER SKY.** A clear azure blue double, the blue of the summer sky. Sparkling, beautiful, enchanting. White or fawn centers. Flowers around 2½ inches but of a charming perfection. Tough stems.

**SUNRISE.** Double, blushing mauve up on azure back petals, long spikes, over four feet, 3 inch flowers, many laterals. Centers are light or dark gold, or fawn, widely opened, flat flowers. It is fascinating but does not fix easily in the seed, but does occur.

**VENETIAN NIGHTS.** A deep brilliant blue, dark and lovely; sparkling white center. Double with only a little mauve. Very greatly improved and shows a much higher percentage true from the seed. The 1938 crop brought some very fine ones and the 1939 crop will be much better.

**VIOLET.** This is the shade of pansy violet that is so uncommon. Double medium sized flowers, on wiry stems, with a velvet tone on the petals, it is the finest blue purple color, very close to midnight blue. Seed only.

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## VIOLAS

These that I grow are only the True Perennials, which, if given good care, will live and bloom for many years. These are not to be confused with the pansy violas which send up, usually only one or two stems, the plant branching from that, and which is best raised new from seed every year. These that I offer send up numerous shoots from a mass of roots and can be divided and reset with the best results. If they are too thick, it is best to divide them in the spring, never in the fall, usually in April, before there is much bloom.

They like a deep rich soil, bone meal, sheep guano, leaf mold, rotted cow manure, and good commercial fertilizer. I like to mulch mine with half rotted leaves, especially if grown in the sun. I grow them also in light shade.

The old growth should be cut back, usually in July, giving the new growth at the center a chance. This continues the bloom. This can be done gradually so as to have the bloom going on all the time.

They make lovely ground covers around lilies, roses, or among tall plants that do not have much foliage near the ground. They do not like being smothered. They are fine in the rock garden, in beds, or as edgings. They can be grown in masses of one color or in groups of various colors. There is no more charming and delightful flower for your gardens.

**WHEELER CROFT CHARMING.** A new viola of my origination, with a perky shape and a saucy face. The large flowers of deep mauve, with a deep yellow spot in the center surrounded by an area of dark blue violet, grow jauntily on 6-7 inch stems. Vigorous growth but compact, very suitable for bedding and edgings. **Each 50c, \$5.00 per doz.**

**ENCHANTRESS.** Very long stemmed flowers of deep velvety violet. A Canadian child, with a most excellent root system; a good grower and an easy propagator. The flow-

ers have the same perky shape as the Jersey Gem; the flower is larger, and the color richer and deeper. **Each 50c; \$5.00 per doz.**

**MAGGIE MOTT.** Flowers over two inches across, of a most lovely shaded violet that is very uncommon. Beautiful cut-flower, with long stems, and the most persistent prize winner at flower shows. It combines well with all colors, is a generous bloomer and has a persistent appeal not equalled by any other variety that I have ever grown. Good strong stock. Fine bedding viola and most charming in mass effect. **Each 35c, \$3.00 per dozen.**



► ◀ *On all Viola plants, no mail orders filled for less than one-half dozen.*

**JERSEY GEM.** A most satisfactory viola. Large flowers of a pure violet, slightly perfumed, on long stems, from early spring to late fall. Lovely cut flower. **Each 25c, \$2.00 per dozen.**

**WHEELER CROFT No. 1.** One of my originalations. Larger and bluer than the Jersey Jewel, it is of low, spreading, compact growth, very well adapted for banks and rock gardens. It likes sun and blooms earlier and later than most violas. Very hardy. **Each 35c, \$3.00 per dozen.**

**WHEELER CROFT No. 3.** This is a seedling that came from a cross that I made between a white viola and the Jersey Gem. It is a lovely grey blue, larger than the Jersey Gem but not so long stemmed. It's growth is just the same, compact and every shoot rooted. It will grow very well in full sun but the color holds better in light shade. It blooms early, consistently, and late. **Each 35c, \$3.00 per doz.**

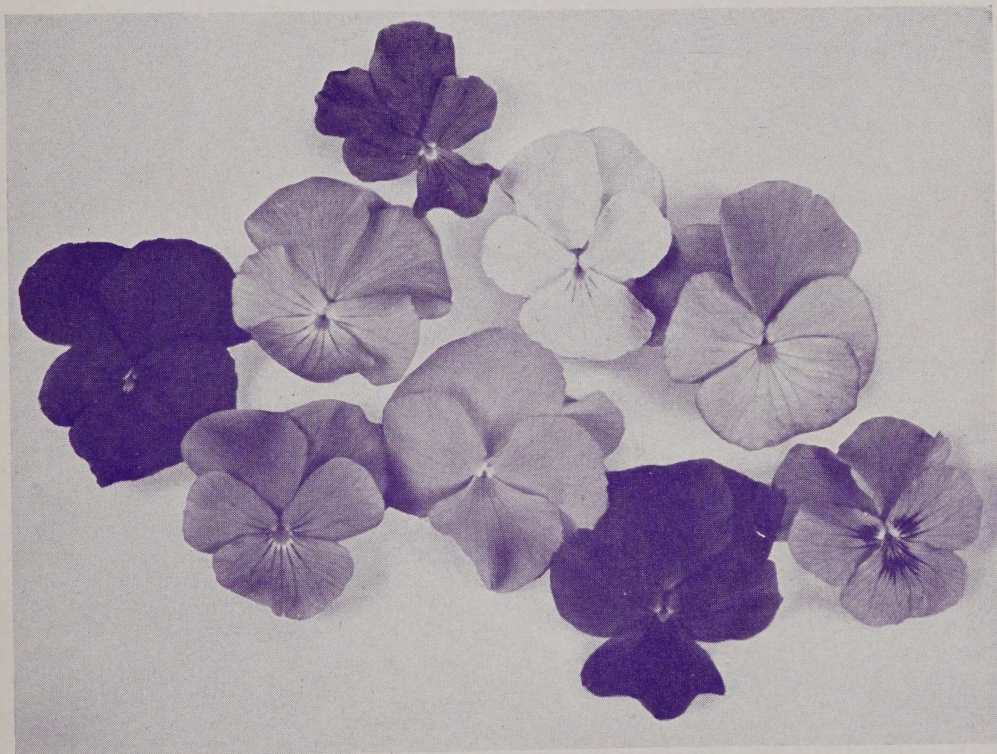
**WHEELER CROFT WHITE.** Milk white, it is a most generous and almost continuous bloomer. The jaunty, dainty flowers are

carried on long stiff stems, 7 to 9 inches in length. With some foliage, the stems can be cut as long as 12 inches. Very good keeper and does not bruise easily. Gay and charming, it is a wonderful florist variety. **Each 50c, \$5.00 per dozen.**

**PRIDE OF VICTORIA.** This is cousin to Maggie Mott but is a clear, deep violet color. The large flowers of good substance are carried on very long stems. A vigorous grower, an exuberant bloomer, the unusual color of the flowers, make it one of the loveliest violas that I know. **Each 35c, \$3.00 per dozen.**

**MOSELEY'S PERFECTION.** Large flowers of a deep, clear, bright yellow. A good grower and remarkable bloomer. It is the best yellow that I have seen and contrasts beautifully with the blue, red purple, and violet shades. Stocky plants. Limited stock. **Each 35c, \$3.00 per dozen.**

The varieties, Jersey Gem, Wheeler Croft No. 1 and the new Charming, are the only ones which bear seed. Pkt. 25c.



*Top Row: Jersey Gem.*

*Center Row: Wheeler Croft No. 1, Wheeler Croft No. 3, Wheeler Croft White, Maggie Mott.*

*Bottom Row: Pride of Victoria, Moseley's Perfection, Enchantress, Wheeler Croft Charming.*





SNOW WHITE

**"WHEELER CROFT"** *Delphiniums and Violas*

AGNES A. WHEELER • PLANT BREEDER 6123 S. E. 18th Ave., PORTLAND, ORE.